Simple past or present perfect?

This grammar exercise tests your understanding of past simple and present perfect tenses. Complete the following sentences using an appropriate tense form. Each question is followed by two suggested answers. Choose the most appropriate one.

1. I ……. in this city when I was a child.

a) lived

b) have lived

2. Nobody …….. him since yesterday.

a) has seen

b) saw

3. ‘Where is John?’ ‘He ……. here ten minutes ago.’

a) has been

b) was

4. He ……. last year.

a) died

b) has died

5. She …….. since she left school.

a) has been unemployed

b) was unemployed

6. They …….. the contract last week.

a) signed

b) have signed

7. The film ……. yet.

a) has not been released

b) was not released

8. She ……. ill since she returned from Malaysia.

a) has been

b) was

9. I ……. your brother yesterday.

a) met

b) have met

10. Look. Somebody …….. their umbrella behind.

a) left

b) has left

Answers

1. I **lived** in this city when I was a child.

2. Nobody **has seen** him since yesterday.

3. ‘Where is John?’ ‘He **was** here ten minutes ago.’

4. He **died** last year.

5. She **has been unemployed** since she left school.

6. They **signed** the contract last week.

7. The film **has not been released** yet.

8. She **has been** ill since she returned from Malaysia.

9. I **met** your brother yesterday.

10. Look. Somebody **has left** their umbrella behind.

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